

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DACCA 02625 271259Z
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 HA-05 CA-01 H-01 /024 W
-----069176 281349Z /75

R 270945Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9049

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC CDES (KURTZ, ALLEN)
SUBJECT: POTOMAC AND CREW COMPLAINS AND THE DEATH OF ALLEN KURTZ

REF: DACCA 2610

1. CONSOFF HAS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE COMPLAINTS OF THE CREW OF THE "POTOMAC" WITH THE SHIP'S MASTER, CAPTAIN FRANGOS. FRANGOS STATED THAT HIS SHIP WAS CURRENTLY SHORTHANDED AND IT COULD NOT SPARE HANDS PRIOR TO ITS ARRIVAL IN SUEZ. ONE CREW MEMBER WHO HAD EXPRESSED HIS DESIRE TO LEAVE THE SHIP COULD DO SO THERE. QUALIFIED AMERICAN SEAMEN ARE NOT AVAILABLE IN CHITTAGONG. THE MASTER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WAS SOME DISCONTENT AMONG THE CREW OF HIS VESSEL DUE TO THE HEAT ON BOARD AND TO THE LONG TIME THE CREW HAS BEEN AWAY FROM HOME.

2. THE SHIP'S LOG ENTRIES CONCERNING THE DEATH OF ALLEN KURTZ STATE THAT KURTZ WAS FOUND ASLEEP ON HIS BUNK AT 1640 HOURS ON APRIL 16 AND WAS FOUND TO BE UNABLE TO STAND HIS WATCH. THE CAPTAIN HAD CONCLUDED THAT HE MAY HAVE BEEN INTOXICATED ALTHOUGH NO LIQUOR COULD BE FOUND IN HIS ROOM. KURTZ WAS AWAKENED AND HE SAID HE WAS "AL RIGHT." HE WAS ALLOWED TO SLEEP IN HIS ROOM. KURTZ WAS FOUND DEAD THE FOLLOWING DAY AT 0550 HOURS. DURING TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH CONSOFF, FRANGOS
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SAID HE COULD ADD NOTHING TO THIS.

3. THE DOCTOR WHO PERFORMED THE AUTOPSY ON KURTZ ON APRIL 18 GAVE THE FOLLOWING REPORT ON HIS DEATH
"NOTHING HAS BEEN DETECT TO SUGGEST ANY INFECTIOUS DISEASE AS CAUSE OF DEATH."

4. THE SHIP WILL LEAVE CHITTAGONG IN THREE OR FOUR DAYS.
SCHNEIDER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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